

under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 to convert existing extension counters into full fledged branches subject to certain conditions. Guidelines in this regard have been issued to UCBs on November 13, 2006.

For new branches/licences, RBI has informed that only upon completion of review of each State in regard to the progress of restructuring of UCBs, it would permit new branches/licences.

Opening of regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna

†*299. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present four regional centres of Sahitya Academy are functional in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no regional centre of the academy has so far been opened in Hindi-Urdu speaking areas; and

(c) if so, by when Government will take the necessary decision on opening a regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna (Bihar) while considering the demand?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Sahitya Academy has its Regional Offices at Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata. It has a Sub-Regional Office in Chennai under its Regional Office, Bangalore.

(b) No, Sir. The Sahitya Academy's Head Office located in New Delhi takes care of the languages of Northern India including Hindi and Urdu.

(c) At present there is no proposal to open a Regional centre of Sahitya Academy in Patna.

Supply of gas to co-operative societies

*300. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of localities where piped cooking gas connections have been given in each of the Metro cities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that preference in this regard is given to areas where co-operative societies are located; and

(c) if so, the details of such areas in the aforesaid Metro cities not yet covered along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is at present being supplied in the cities of Mumbai and its suburbs by Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) and in Delhi by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). MGL is providing PNG to over 2,74,000 homes and 835 small commercial and industrial consumers in Mumbai and its suburbs. IGL has provided connections to more than 64,000 households in the various localities of Delhi. The details of localities where PNG connections have been provided by both the companies are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) No specific preference is given to any particular kind of localities. Gas is provided to all households, wherever infrastructure is available and is technically feasible.

(c) Since laying of pipelines for supply of PNG is a continuous process, other areas in these cities will be covered in a phased manner.

Statement

Areas where PNG connections have been provided in Delhi

Golf link, Sujan Singh Park, Sunder Nagar, Kaka Nagar, Bapa Nagar, Pandara Park, Pandara Road, Lodhi Complex, Lodhi Colony, Sarojini Nagar, Naroji Nagar, Pragati Vihar, Mohammadpur, Bharat Nagar, Friends Colony, New Friends Colony, Ishwar Nagar,, Kalindi Colony, Khan Market, Maharani Bagh, Jor Bagh, Asiad Village, Sukhdev Vihar, Sarita Vihar, Zakir Bagh, Pant Nagar, Nizamuddin East & West, Jangpura Extn. Jangpura, Diplomatic Enclave, Indraprastha Estate, Neeti Bagh, Gulmohar Park, Mayur Vihar Phase I, Rohini Sector 9,13 & 14., R.K. Puram Sectors 1 to 5 and 7, Som Vihar in R.K. Puram, Vasant Kunj Pocket C-1,2,3,6/7/8 and 9, B-10 and 11, Patparganj I.P. Extn. Kidwai Nagar, Andrews Ganj, Laxmi Bai Nagar, Netaji Nagar, R.K. Puram (8,12 and 13 Sectors), Chanakaya Puri, Kali Bari Marg/BKS Marg, Aurangzeb Road, Vasundhara Enclave, Mayur Vihar Phase II, Rohini (Sector 15), Pitam Pura, Mayfair Garden,, Anand Lok, Munirka Vihar, Munirka DDA Flats, Munirka Enclave.

Work is in progress in Paschin Vihar, Vikas Puri, Rohini Sector 15 and 18, and in CPWD colonies of North West Moti Bagh, South West Moti Bagh, Andrews Ganj, Sadiq Nagar and R.K. Puram Sector 9. PNG supply shall also be available in CPWD colony of Srinivasपुरi in FY 2006-07, if permissions are granted by land-owning agencies.

Areas where PNG connections have been provided in Mumbai

MGL is currently operating in Mumbai, Thane, Belapur, Navi Mumbai and Vashi areas. As of date, PNG has been made available in almost all areas of Mumbai, viz., from Bandra to Dahisar in Western suburbs, Chembur to Mulund in Eastern suburbs, Versova, Lokhandwala, Juhu, Mahim, Matunga, Shivaji Park, Prabhadevi and Sion areas. In the expansion areas, PNG has been made available in Thane and Mira-Bhayander.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Facilities to physically challenged passengers

2104. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DGCA has asked domestic airlines to be sensitive to the needs of physically challenged following a litany of complaints from passengers;

(b) if so, the details of the directions issued in this regard;

(c) whether the directions have been implemented, if so, to what extent; and

(d) if not the reasons for non-implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed each airline to make a requirement for physically challenged passengers in their